

## PreAP Reader's Journal

The PreAP English courses build the foundation needed for the college level expectations in the AP Language and Literature classes. Because the free-response question on the AP exam requires that you refer to major literary works, you should keep an ongoing record of readings throughout high school. You are encouraged to read from the PreAP authors list this summer and complete reader's journals over those selections. Format each journal entry as shown in the template below. This journal entry should be typed in 12 point Times New Roman font and must be submitted through the plagiarism software check on E4 by September 5, 2013. Your teacher will show you how to submit your work.

Do not rely on online resources or classmates to help you with this assignment; it is important that this journal be a reflection of your own personal knowledge of the book. Submissions will be reviewed closely for plagiarism. For each reader's journal completed with relevant detail, you will receive one extra credit point added to your first nine weeks grade. You may complete a maximum of three reader's journals for extra credit. Be sure to refer to your school's PreAP authors list for your selections.

### Title:

- 1. Significance of the title:**
- 2. Genre:**
- 3. Date** of original publication:
- 4. Author:**
- 5. Setting** (including: time span of the story, time period in which the story is set, and place[s] in which the story is set)
- 6. Importance** of this setting (consider ideas/beliefs indicative of the time and possible symbolism)
- 7. Plot** (key conflicts and resolution, approximately 250 words)
- 8. Point of view** (From whose viewpoint is the story told? Describe the narrator(s) and his/her connection to the story)
- 9. Style**
  - Characterize the **author's diction**. (specific word choices- formal or informal; simplistic or learned, emotional or objective, etc)
  - Was the book easy to read or challenging? What did you like or dislike about the way the author writes?
- 10. Characters** (provide descriptions – physical and behavioral)
- 11. Three symbols or allusions** (and significance of each within the literary work) Reminder for symbols: Express each in terms of the concrete or literal meaning (e.g., the U.S. flag) and the symbolic or abstract meaning (freedom, independence). Remember that symbols can take the form of things, places, events, or actions. Reminder for allusions: Often, an allusion, since it is a reference thought to be familiar, adds emphasis to the experiences or nature of a character by forming a link to something beyond the text of the work. A discussion of significance will often require consideration of connotation (of the allusion itself).
- 12. Theme(s) and justification of theme(s):** The meaning of the work as a whole? Can you connect this book to any others you have read or to any universal human experiences?
- 13. Did you like the book?** Why or why not? What will remain with you about this book?